

## RUSSIAN VESSELS.

## Eight Were Captured by the Japanese at Chemulpo.

Formal Declaration of War Has Been Prepared and Approved By Japanese Cabinet—The Mikado Is Superintending Affairs.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The state department Tuesday received a cablegram from Ambassador McCormick at St. Petersburg confirming the press reports to the effect that three warships of the Russian fleet had been damaged in an attack in the roads of the harbor at Port Arthur by Japanese torpedo boats. The extent of the damage to the vessels, it is said, is unknown. This was the first official information received concerning this engagement.

The Foo, Feb. 10.—A member of the crew of the Columbia tells this story of the naval battle at Port Arthur:

"The Columbia was lying in the roadstead surrounded by 14 Russian battleships and cruisers. At 11:30 o'clock Monday night a severe shock was felt on board the Columbia. The Russians immediately commenced to operate their searchlights and opened fire towards the sea. The firing lasted only a short time. At 1 o'clock more shocks were felt and the Russians again commenced firing. The Japanese did not return the fire. At 2 o'clock two Russian battleships went in and were beached across the entrance of the harbor. They were soon followed by a Russian cruiser, which also was beached. None of the vessels were damaged above the water line. More shocks from torpedoes were felt during the early morning and then all was quiet. At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning three Japanese cruisers passed Port Arthur in sight of the Russian fleet. The whole Russian fleet immediately weighed anchor and went after them but returned in half an hour."

The Russian forts opened fire on the Japanese fleet, which was about three miles distant. The Japanese vessels returned the fire, hitting several of the Russian ships, but doing little damage. The Russian cruisers then went out, and the Japanese vessels disappeared. They were seen later going in the direction of Dalny, apparently undamaged, although the officers of the Columbia say that there were 17 in the attacking party, only 16 were seen later in the day near Foo Chow.

The Columbia had a narrow escape from injury. Her passengers and crew were very much excited in regard to her dangerous position. While going out of the roads at Port Arthur the Russian cruiser Novik got between the Columbia and the Japanese fleet. Shells which passed over the Novik struck around the Columbia. Her flag was cut into shreds and one shell fell on her deck. The faces of those who were on deck were blackened with powder smoke. A naval officer who was recently at Port Arthur says the Russians were not prepared for the attack on their ships and had an insufficient amount of steam up. A boat patrolled the straits of Pe Chi Li continuously but apparently the Japanese torpedo boats were not noticed until after the first torpedo was fired. The Russians fired but the Japanese did not return the fire and backed off. An hour later the discharge of torpedoes was repeated, after which the torpedo boats withdrew some distance.

At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning the Japanese fast cruisers circled within view of the whole Russian fleet, but they were not engaged. The Russians returned toward the harbor after an hour. The Japanese continuing came within three miles. A battle then began and the Russian forts and 14 ships against 16 Japanese vessels. A few of the Japanese shells were effective but as far as seen the Russian shots fell short.

Japanese are reported to be in possession of the southern portion of the peninsula.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—A telegram has been received from Viceroy Alexioff. It is dated February 9, and says: "A Japanese squadron of 15 battleships and cruisers to-day began to bombard Port Arthur. The fortress replied and the squadron weighed anchor in order to participate in the battle."

Another telegram from the viceroy says that after a bombardment lasting one hour the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and steamed southward. "Our losses," the viceroy continues, "are two naval officers and 51 men wounded and nine men killed, and on the coast batteries one man killed and three wounded."

"During the engagement the battleship Poltava and the cruisers Diana, Askold and Novik were each damaged on the water line. The damage to the fortress was not important."

Tokio, Feb. 11.—Undaunted by the absence of official confirmations Japan is rejoicing over a great naval victory at Port Arthur. Early Wednesday came a cable report from the Japanese consul at Che Foo saying that early Monday the Japanese torpedo

boats destroyed three large Russian warships off Port Arthur. Thereafter Adm. Togo's fleet of 16 warships engaged the entire Russian fleet remaining off the port. The consul was unable to give the result of the main engagement, but said when the steamship Columbia passed the scene of action all of the Japanese warships were preserving their alignment and fighting vigorously and steadily and apparently uninjured. The newspapers here published extra editions containing news of the battle and produced the first popular demonstration of the war. Flags were raised everywhere and excited crowds thronged the streets. Later in the day came a cablegram from Paris saying that Viceroy Alexioff had reported to St. Petersburg that three ships had been injured by a torpedo attack.

Japan seized Masampo Sunday and dispatched a heavy force there. Japan will fortify the port and establish a naval and military base there. Masampo is an exceedingly important point as it controls the Korean channel, and is an excellent base for future operations.

A formal declaration of war was expected Wednesday night. The proclamation has been prepared and approved by the cabinet. Foreign Minister Komura has gone to the palace to secure the emperor's approval.

The Mikado is personally superintending affairs, and the cabinet holds daily sessions. The government has issued orders for the protection of all Russian subjects residing in Japan. Baron Kanako and Baron Sukematsu have been sent to the United States and Great Britain to explain Japan's position and attitude in the present conflict.

The Japanese have captured at least five Russian commercial steamers, including the Ekaterintoslav, Moulken, Russia, Argun and Alexander. They were captured by the Japanese in Korean and adjacent waters at various times since Saturday by small cruisers. Some of the steamers are rich prizes. The small steamer Koeik is detained at Yokohama, its status not being clear.

London, Feb. 11.—Special dispatches from Tokio Thursday morning announce the arrival of Japanese troops at Seoul, but beyond this the dispatches published in the newspapers here Thursday morning add practically nothing to the knowledge of the actual situation.

The Tien-Tsin correspondent of the Standard sends in a report that the Russians have massacred 100 Chinese at Liao Yang, in consequence of which the officials at Shan Hai Kwan are greatly alarmed and are appealing to Peking for protection.

The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Tien-Tsin says that Li, the favorite court official of the dowager empress of China, has been decoyed away and beheaded by orders of Yuan Shi Kai, commander-in-chief of the Chinese army and navy. Li was pro-Russian in his feelings.

The Che Foo correspondent of the Daily Express asserts that the Russian cruiser Diana was injured by a shot from the Russian shore battery at Port Arthur and that the cruiser Novik and the battleship Poltava have also been beached at Port Arthur.

Special dispatches from Tokio report that fugitives from Vladivostok accuse the Russians of openly looting Japanese houses there without interference by the police.

## RUSSIAN VESSELS.

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San Francisco, Feb. 11.—A cablegram from Nagasaki states that the Russian cruiser Variag, which was reported to have been sunk Tuesday at Chemulpo by the Japanese fleet, was captured and arrived at Sasebo. The dispatch also states that in addition to the Russian vessels damaged in the torpedo attack at Port Arthur, that seven other vessels were captured. It is also reported at Nagasaki that Gen. Kuropatkin has arrived at Harbin to take command of the Russian land forces.

To Preserve Neutrality of China. Washington, Feb. 10.—The state department has sent a circular note to the powers asking that they act in a similar manner with the United States in an effort to persuade Japan and Russia to preserve the neutrality of China and to limit the area of hostilities.

Will Declare Neutrality. Washington, Feb. 11.—Russia Wednesday invited the United States a declaration of her neutrality in the far eastern situation. Secretary Hay Wednesday night sent the draft of the declaration of our neutrality to the president for his signature.

Japan Landing Troops. Peking, Feb. 10.—About 1,000 Japanese troops disembarked at Chemulpo, Corea, Tuesday, notwithstanding the presence there of two Russian warships.

Bridge Blown Up and 30 Men Killed. London, Feb. 11.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail says an important bridge on the Manchurian railroad has been blown up and 30 men have been killed.

Making Preparations to Leave. San Francisco, Feb. 10.—The Japanese of San Francisco who are members of the reserves are busily making preparations to return to their native country and take up arms in her defense. They will receive home orders soon.

The Reserves Called Out. Honolulu, Feb. 10.—Numerous cables were received Tuesday by Japanese residents in Honolulu from their government advising them that the reserves had been called out and instructing them to come home at once.

## NO COMPLICATIONS.

## Condition of Senator Hanna Practically the Same.

The Senator is in a Weakened Condition and Should a Complication Develop the Result May Be Quickly Fatal.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Senator Hanna was better Tuesday and Tuesday night he was reported to be resting quietly. There are no complications and the vital organs are said to be performing their functions satisfactorily. An increased amount of nourishment was given the senator Tuesday. In addition to the pasteurized milk which he has been taking since his illness began, he took some white of an egg Tuesday, nearly all of which he retained on his stomach. He apparently was stronger than on Monday and wanted to insist on exerting himself when it became necessary to change his position. His spirits also seemed improved.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Senator Hanna's condition remains practically unchanged. The restlessness which fatigued him Tuesday night has followed by periods of comparative quiet and sleep during the day and the irritability of the stomach has again partially yielded to treatment. The physicians say that no complications have developed. It is this feature of the case that the physicians are guarding zealously against as they realize that if any complications develop in the senator's distressing weak condition the result may be fatal quickly. The doctors are not yet able to predict with any certainty when the crisis in the case will occur. All they know for certain is that the senator now has had the fever continuously for 11 days and the disease, they say, generally runs its course in three or four weeks. The doctors say they are satisfied with the progress of the case, although they do not conceal their apprehension that unforeseen complications may occur at any time.

## THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

## A List of the "Livery" Used Transmitted to the House.

Washington, Feb. 11.—The state department's answer to the house carriage resolution was transmitted to that body Wednesday by President Roosevelt. The answer sums up the "livery" as follows:

"The department maintains for the use of the secretary and assistant secretaries one brougham, one victoria, two depot wagons, one surrey, four horses, three sets of single harness and one set of double harness."

The total cost of this outfit is \$2,845. Four assistant messengers at \$60 a month are employed as drivers. No footmen or automobiles are employed.

## IMPERIAL GUARD BAND.

## Owing to the War It Will Not Be Sent to the St. Louis Fair.

St. Louis, Feb. 11.—Dr. George W. Stewart, manager of the bureau of music of the World's fair, received a cablegram Wednesday from Hon. Serge W. Alexandrovsky, Russia's commissioner general to the World's fair, stating that owing to the war between Russia and Japan the band of the imperial guard would not be sent to St. Louis. The band of the imperial guard is the czar's favorite organization, composed of the elite of the Russian army.

## FIRE IN A STARCH FACTORY.

## The Loss Will Be Over One Million Dollars.

Oswego, N. Y., Feb. 11.—Fire that started in the chemical room of the Corn Products Co.'s starch factory threatens the destruction of the whole establishment. Aid has been requested from Fulton and Syracuse and three engines have arrived from the latter city. The plant is the largest starch factory in the world.

At 2:30 o'clock Thursday morning the flames were under control, being confined to the one building. The loss will be over \$1,000,000.

## Sensational Escape.

Boston, Feb. 11.—Edward Waters, aged 22, a convict, made a sensational escape from the state prison at Charlestown about 8 o'clock Wednesday night. Waters was aided by one or more confederates, as he was assisted in scaling the wall by a rope thrown from the outside. A carriage was in waiting for him a short distance from the prison wall. Waters was serving a sentence for burglary.

## He Was From Kentucky.

Greenville, Miss., Feb. 11.—Joe Anderson committed suicide in jail by shooting himself through the head with a pistol. He was allowed the freedom of the jail inclosure, and in this way secured the jailer's pistol. Relatives at his former home, Danville, Ky., have been notified.

## \$2,000,000 in Silk.

Ogdensburg, N. Y., Feb. 11.—A special train of 18 cars, carrying 1,000 tons of China silk, valued at \$2,000,000, one of the largest single shipments on record, arrived here Wednesday from Vancouver en route to New York.

## A Union of Methodist Colleges.

Chicago, Feb. 11.—A union of Methodist universities, colleges and academies throughout the country was proposed by President James, of Northwestern university, at the meeting of the College Presidents' association.

## FIFTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

## Regular Session.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Senate—The political debate in the senate on the proposed loan of \$4,600,000 to the St. Louis exposition, which has been in progress on a point of order for the past three days, came to a close Friday through a vote which left the provision in the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, which was passed. After the vote on the deficiency bill speeches in support of the Panama canal treaty were made by Mr. Mallory (Fla.) and Mr. Hepburn (Ida.). Several bills were passed. Adjourned until Monday.

House—Mr. Shepard (Tex.), one of the youngest members of the house, made a determined and persistent effort to bring about a reform in the matter of the distribution of seeds by the government. He contended that the present system is bad. Mr. Shepard's first move to have struck from the agricultural appropriation bill certain sections providing the machinery for the distribution of the seeds authorized to be purchased under the bill. In this he was successful, his point of order being sustained by the chair, but by an overwhelming vote the house promptly added the sections to the bill by way of amendment. Only three members voted in opposition to the restoration. Mr. Shepard's further effort was to secure an amendment to the restored sections which would provide for the purchase of rare and untried seeds, but despite his earnest appeal for this amendment, it failed, and the bill was left just as the committee brought it into the house so far as free distribution was concerned. This was the only item in the bill that aroused serious discussion and with a few minor amendments it was passed by the house without division. The house adjourned until Monday.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Senate—After listening to speeches by Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Clay in support of the Panama canal treaty, the senate Monday passed the bill granting assistance to the proposed Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland, Ore. The bill was amended so as to close the exposition on Sundays, and the provision for a permanent memorial to Lewis and Clark was eliminated.

House—The house debated at length the proposed loan of \$4,600,000 to the Louisiana purchase exposition at St. Louis as provided for in the senate amendment to the urgent deficiency bill, and it was still pending when the house adjourned. The house non-concurred in all other amendments except that providing for coal tests at the St. Louis fair.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Senate—The senate Tuesday passed the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill without debate and then renewed consideration of the isthmian question. Mr. Fulton spoke in support of the course of the administration in connection with the Panama revolt and Mr. Carmack and Mr. Overman in opposition thereto. Mr. Overman had not hitherto made his position on the treaty known and his speech revealed the attitude of probably the last doubtful member of the senate. The speech was Mr. Overman's maiden effort in the senate.

House—The house devoted the entire session to consideration of the resolution reported from elections committee No. 3, unseating Mr. Howell (dem.) and declaring Mr. Connell (rep.), who contested the election, to have been elected from the Tenth Pennsylvania district. By agreement a vote will be taken at 3 p. m. Wednesday afternoon.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Senate—The major portion of the time of the senate in open session Wednesday was devoted to a speech by Mr. McCumber, who supported the Panama canal treaty and justified all the acts of the administration in connection with the recent revolt. A number of private pension bills were passed.

House—The house disposed of the Connell-Howell contested election case from the Tenth Pennsylvania district in favor of Mr. Connell. The republicans, with the exception of Messrs. Lanning (N. J.), Shiras (Pa.) and Parker (N. J.), supported the resolution unseating Mr. Howell and giving the seat to the contestant. The democrats solidly supported Mr. Howell. Mr. Shiras and Mr. Lanning spoke in opposition to the unseating of Mr. Howell. Mr. Connell was promptly sworn in and took his seat. The house then resumed consideration of the senate amendment proposing a loan of \$4,600,000 to the Louisiana purchase exposition, on which a vote on the question of concurrence will be taken Thursday. Further opposition to the proposition developed in the debate Wednesday.

## REMARKABLE STATEMENT.

## A Shell From the Battleship Missouri Thrown Fifteen Miles.

Washington, Feb. 11.—One of the officers of the battleship Missouri, which has been engaged in target practice off the Chesapeake capes, came to the navy department Wednesday with a remarkable statement. He said that one of the 12-inch guns being elevated seven degrees let fly a shell which the strongest glass could not follow to the end of its flight. Later a passing steamer reported that the shot had struck the sea within 300 yards of her. The steamer was distant from the Missouri just 15 miles.

## Corean Minister Recalled.

Washington, Feb. 11.—President Roosevelt received at the white house Wednesday Mr. Minhui Cho, the minister of Corea, who called to pay his respects and to present formally his letters of recall from Washington.

## Will Accept the Position.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Cameron Forbes called upon Secretary of War William Taft Wednesday and while he has not yet formally accepted the post of Philippine commissioner tendered him, he let it be known that he would do so.

## Maj. Gen. S. M. B. Young Ill.

Havana, Feb. 11.—Maj. Gen. S. M. B. Young, U. S. A., retired, is confined at the home of Maj. Runcie here, suffering from liver trouble. The attending physicians say his condition is not considered serious.

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